AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) An electronic data management apparatus (1, 20, 30) comprising:

user data storing means (6) storing data;

identification data storing means (11) having identification data for authentication registered therein;

input means (3, 21, 31, 32) for entering authentication information about a user;

authentication means (12) performing authentication of said user by comparing data entered from said input means (3, 21, 31, 32) with said identification data registered in said identification data storing means (11); and

interface means (9) connected to an electronic computer to transmit and receive said user data;

wherein access to said user data is permitted when said entered data and said identification data match each other as a result of said authentication;

said electronic data management apparatus further comprising:

program storing means (7) storing a control program which is installed in said computer to allow a user to perform an operation by using said user data on said computer and to supervise the operation of an OS running on said computer and the operation of an application program and switch control means (10) selectively switching between said data storing means (6) and said program storing means (7); wherein after said user has been authenticated by said authentication

means (12), <u>said electronic data management apparatus (1, 20, 30) is unlocked and allows said</u>

<u>computer connected thereto to start automatic recognition of said electronic data management</u>

<u>apparatus (1, 20, 30), said program storing means (7) is recognized by said computer, and</u> said

control program is installed <u>automatically</u> in said computer<u>, and said switch control means (10)</u>

<u>selectively switches said data storing means (6) into said program storing means (7)</u> to enable

reading said data from said computer.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Canceled)

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) An electronic data management apparatus according to

claim 1 [[or 3]], wherein writing to said data storing means (6) can be performed from said

computer, and a history of handling said data on said computer or a history of operating said

computer to handle said data is written to said data storing means (6) by said control program.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) An electronic data management apparatus according to

claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein said identification data is fingerprint data, wherein fingerprint

information about said user is entered from said input means (3), and said authentication means

(12) performs fingerprint authentication of said user.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) An electronic data management apparatus according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein said identification data is a registered personal identification number, wherein a personal identification number is entered from said input means (21), and said authentication means (12) authenticates said user by comparing said personal identification number with said registered personal identification number.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) An electronic data management apparatus according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein said authentication means (12) has a mechanical lock (32) and a key (31), so that said user having said key (31) is permitted to access said data.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) A control program for use with an electronic data management apparatus, said electronic data management apparatus having:

an authentication information storing area (11) that stores registered authentication information;

an input section (3, 21, 31, 32) for entering identification information about a user;

an authentication section (12) having an authentication function of performing authentication of said user by comparing said authentication information and said identification information with each other;

a data storing area (6) that stores user data; and

a program storing area (7) that stores a control program;

wherein said control program supervises the operation of an OS running on said

computer and the operation of an application program and allows a user to perform an operation

by using said user data on said computer

when said electronic data management apparatus is connected to an electronic computer,

said authentication section (12) performs said authentication of said user, and upon completion

of said authentication, said electronic data management apparatus (1, 20, 30) is unlocked and

allows said computer connected thereto to start automatic recognition of said electronic data

management apparatus (1, 20, 30), then said program storing mean (7) is recognized by said

computer, and said control program is installed automatically is said computer, and after

completion of said automatic installation of said control program, said switch control means (10)

selectively switches said data storing means (6) into said program storing mean (7) to enable

reading said user data from said computer, and said user is permitted to access said data storing

area (11);

~~said control program being installed in said computer after said authentication has been~~

~~performed;~~

wherein when an operation is performed on said computer by using said data, said

control program operates said computer so as to store a history of said operation.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) A control program for use with an electronic data

management apparatus according to claim 8, wherein when said electronic data management

apparatus is disconnected from said computer, said control program deletes said <u>user</u> data

transmitted into said computer.

Claim 10 (Original) A control program for use with an electronic data management

apparatus according to claim 9, which incorporates an automatic disappearance program having

a function of causing said control program to disappear automatically when said electronic data

management apparatus is disconnected from said computer.

Claim 11 (Original) A control program for use with an electronic data management

apparatus according to claim 8 or 9, which has a function of becoming disabled from operating

in said computer.

Claim 12 (Original) A control program for use with an electronic data management

apparatus according to claim 8, which has:

a history obtaining function of obtaining at least one history selected from histories of

duplicating, deleting, editing, viewing, reading and writing said data on said computer, or a

history of files or new data created by using said data;

a data recording function of writing said history to said data storing area (6); and

a transmission function of transmitting said history by using communication means.

Claim 13 (Original) A control program for use with an electronic data management

apparatus according to claim 8 or 12, wherein said history is an operation history of operating

from input means of said computer.

Claim 14 (Original) A control program for use with an electronic data management

apparatus according to claim 8, which limits a file system of said computer so as to permit only

at least one operation selected from duplicating, deleting, editing, viewing, reading and writing

said data on said computer by a specific application program or arbitrarily.

Claim 15 (Original) A control program for use with an electronic data management

apparatus according to claim 8, which runs in a kernel mode in which all instructions of an OS of

said computer are executable.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) An electronic data management method using

an electronic data management apparatus (1, 20, 30), said electronic data management apparatus

having:

an authentication information storing section (11) that stores authentication information;

an input section (3, 21, 31, 32) for entering authentication information about a user;

an authentication section (12) that performs authentication of said user by using data

from said input section (3, 21, 31, 32); and

a data storing section (6) that stores <u>user</u> data;

wherein when said electronic data management apparatus is connected to an electronic

computer, said authentication section (12) performs said authentication of said user, and said

user having said authentication information matching said authentication information registered

in said authentication information storing section (11) is permitted to access said <u>user</u> data;

wherein said electronic data management apparatus has a program storing section (7)

that stores a control program, <u>which is installed in said computer to allow a user to perform an</u>

<u>operation by using said user data on said computer and to supervise the operation of an OS</u>

<u>running on said computer and the operation of an application program and switch control means</u>

<u>(10) selectively switching between said data storing means (6) and said program storing means</u>

<u>(7);</u> and upon completion of said authentication <u>by said authentication means (12), said</u>

<u>electronic data management apparatus (1, 20, 30) is unlocked and allows said computer</u>

<u>connected thereto to start automatic recognition of said electronic data management apparatus (1,</u>

<u>20, 30), said program storing means (7) is recognized by said computer, and</u> said control

program is installed in said computer to ensure a use environment in which said data is used in

said computer<u>, said switch control means (10) selectively switches said data storing means (6)</u>

<u>into said program storing means (7) to enable reading said data from said computer.</u>

Claim 17 (Original) An electronic data management method according to claim 16,

wherein said use environment is a limitation that permits access to said data only from a specific

application program that runs on said computer.

Claim 18 (Original) An electronic data management method according to claim 16, wherein said control program has a function of leaving a history of operating from input means of said computer, or a history of access to said data in at least one operation selected from duplicating, deleting, editing, viewing, reading and writing operations using said data, or a history of files or new data created by using said data.

Claim 19 (Original) An electronic data management method according to claim 16, wherein when said electronic data management apparatus (1, 20, 30) is disconnected from said computer, said control program deletes at least one of said data in said computer, duplicates of said data, and data or files created by using said data.

Claim 20 (Original) An electronic data management method according to any one of claims 16, 18 and 19, wherein said control program incorporates an automatic disappearance program having a function of causing said control program to disappear automatically.

Claim 21 (Original) An electronic data management method according to any one of claims 16, 18 and 19, wherein said control program has a function of becoming disabled from functioning in said computer.